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4TH OF JULY

DAILY NEWS

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Wind and Fire rocks Hollywood Bowl



Fireworks explode from the "July Fourth Fireworks Spectacular" on Wednesday at the Hollywood Bowl. Earth, Wind & Fire and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, conducted by Thomas Wilkins, performed. PHOTOS BY CONNOR TERRY

Wednesday night was the first of 3 'July Fourth Fireworks Spectacular' concerts at the venue

B. David Whitworth, member of the iconic band Earth Wind & Fire sings one of the group's biggest hits during the concert. The final concert of three will be held at 7:30 tonight.



By Holly Andres
HANDRES@SCNG.COM

Earth, Wind & Fire and the Los Angeles Philharmonic conducted by Thomas Wilkins gave a heartfelt and spirited show Wednesday at the Hollywood Bowl's annual "July Fourth Fireworks Spectacular" on a beautiful night at the iconic venue in Hollywood.

The Chicago band — Grammy Award

winners and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees in 2000 — had the crowd dancing and swooning with their hit songs like "Let's Groove," "Reasons," "September," "Shining Star," "That's the Way of the World," and many more.

The Hollywood Bowl has a long tradition of presenting a three-night (July 2-4) concert and fireworks show to celebrate the holiday. Tickets are still available for tonight's 7:30 show.

Find last-minute places to watch fireworks or drone shows

By Holly Andres
HANDRES@SCNG.COM

Some Fourth of July celebrations have been canceled amid concerns over immigration enforcement raids, but many options remain for folks eager for fireworks and holiday-style fun. Here's our last-minute list.

Two locations have a bonus night (city of Commerce and Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia). In addition, Culver City has a drone light show on Saturday and Agoura Hills has a drone light show on Sunday following a summer concert.

See EVENTS on Page A7

Inside: For the first time on July Fourth, drones will hunt for illegal fireworks. PAGE A3

WASHINGTON

House passes Trump's big bill

Tax breaks and spending cuts package goes to president for his signature in 218-214 vote

By Lisa Mascaro, Mary Clare Jalonick, Leah Askarinam and Matt Brown
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — House Republicans propelled President Donald Trump's big multitrillion-dollar tax breaks and spending cuts bill to final passage Thursday in Congress, overcoming multiple setbacks to approve his signature second-term policy package before a Fourth of July deadline.

The tight roll call, 218-214, came at a potentially high political cost, with two Republicans joining all Democrats opposed. GOP leaders worked overnight and the president himself leaned on a handful of skeptics to drop their opposition. Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York delayed voting for more than eight hours by seizing control of the

See BILL on Page A5

TOURISM

International travel down in U.S. ahead of Fourth of July

By Pat Maio
PMAIO@SCNG.COM

While Southern Californians fire up their barbecues and hit the beaches this holiday weekend, there might be a tad more room on the sand and in lines at Disneyland rides.

International travel is down across the region, keeping tourism and local officials in a 'wait and see' mode with possibly billions of dollars in the balance, according to travel and tourism experts.

Flights and hotel bookings have slipped in the early part of 2025, with some experts saying trade and immigration rhetoric from Washington, aimed at Canada and other nations, is forcing travelers to reconsider their U.S. vacations.

The drop in travelers out of Canada may be

See TOURISM on Page A5

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Wildfire recovery leader leaves burn zones

Colonel heads home after months of debris cleanup efforts on Eaton, Palisades blazes

By Sierra van der Brug
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The public saw him at news conferences and town halls, confidently speaking about next steps behind podiums in his camouflage uniform, next to city, county, state and federal political leaders.

But behind the scenes, as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers worked to clear lot after lot in Altadena, Pasadena and Pacific Palisades, Col. Eric Swenson

was there, facilitating debris removal for fire survivors, forging bonds. Educating. Updating.

On Thursday, after nearly six months in the Los Angeles area, Swenson is heading home.

"In six months, I think the community has done a 180-degree turn, and most people are starting to be optimistic about the future, sad about the past, but optimistic about their future prospects to rebuild in this community," Swenson said.

The Army Corps of Engineers arrived in Los Angeles after the Eaton and Palisades fires in January to a mammoth task that had changed L.A. County: the Palisades fire claimed 12 lives and destroyed 6,837 structures, including more than 5,400 homes, 135 multifamily buildings and 160 commercial properties. The Eaton fire claimed 18 lives, and destroyed 9,414 structures.

Following the removal of hazardous

See SWENSON on Page A10



Col. Eric Swenson stands at the site of four consecutive lots on Wednesday that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cleared in Altadena on Altadena Drive.

DEAN MUSGROVE — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Playlist

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COURTESY



HOT FUN of SUMMERTIME MUSIC

No other season has a vibe like it, as artists have shown for decades

By Peter Larsen
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When rocker Eddie Cochran released "Summertime Blues" in August 1958, the concept of "the song of summer" was born.

It had a catchy melody with a chugging beat and lyrics that anyone whose summer wasn't going to plan could appreciate.

The vibe fit any summer that followed, whether in Cochran's original or the many cover versions by artists as varied as the Who, Blue Cheer, the Flying Lizards, Buck Owens and Rush.

It was both a hit, cracking the Top 10 as the dog days of summer slipped into fall, and a mood that captured the essence of a season.

While there ain't no cure for the summertime blues, there is, in fact, a formula for determining the songs of the summer, according to Billboard magazine, which has calculated the Top 10 songs of the summer going back to 1958,

when the Billboard Hot 100 chart debuted.

The calculations are complicated, but suffice to say, they weigh factors such as sales, airplay, streaming and chart placement between Memorial Day and Labor Day each summer.

But that formula resulted in Billboard declaring the 1958 song of the summer to be "Nel blu, dipinto di blu," by Italian singer Domenico Modugno, which might make you wonder how much Billboard had to drink that summer.

You actually probably do know that song — it's better known simply as the oft-covered standard "Volare." But does it make you think summery sentiments in the same way that "Summertime Blues" does? Of course not!

So we'll reject the calculations of the Billboard bean counters and go for the vibes of a summer song, looking for tunes that were in the air in summers past and that focus more on the feeling of the season.

See SUMMER on Page C2

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PARTMENT

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025

Los Angeles Times
latimes.com

boycotts of Israel by some groups

Student governments must follow system's policy, which applies to all countries.

By JAWED KALEEM

The University of California has announced that student governments and all other "university entities" are banned from boycotting Israel, a direct response to a Trump administration directive that institutions engaging in such boycotts would not qualify for federal medical and science research grants.

In a letter to chancellors, UC President Michael Drake told campus leaders that "boycotts of companies based on their association with a particular country" were a violation of university policy. Although UC does not have an anti-boycott rule on the books, Drake said that existing policies require competitive bidding for university contracts. Also, campus student governments must engage in "sound business practices" that abide by UC legal requirements, which he said make clear that boycotts of nations are not allowed.

The policies govern all campuses, medical centers, the Agriculture and Natural Resources division and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

The anti-boycott letter sent Wednesday does not apply to student clubs, which are given wider autonomy in their political positions and financial decisions because they do not represent campuses as a whole. They also have smaller budgets. But the letter could affect certain professional school governments, such as at law schools, which are formally recognized by chancellors as "authorized student governments."

[See Boycott, A14]



BILL CLARK CQ-Roll Call



SPEAKER Mike Johnson, top, elicits joy from Rep. Lisa McClain (R-Mich.) with the vote tally. Above, Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles) on the Capitol steps.

ICE seeks to deport Mexican boxer

U.S. officials allege Julio César Chávez Jr. is linked to a cartel and in U.S. illegally.

By BRITNY MEJIA AND EDUARD CAUCH

United States immigration agents have detained prominent Mexican boxer Julio César Chávez Jr. and are working to deport him, with officials saying he has "an active arrest warrant in

Mexico for his involvement in organized crime and trafficking firearms, ammunition, and explosives."

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials arrested Chávez, 39, in Studio City on Wednesday and are processing him for expedited removal from the U.S., according to the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE.

A Homeland Security news release said Chávez had been flagged as a public safety threat, but "the Biden administration indicated in

internal records he was not an immigration enforcement priority."

Last year in January, officials said, the Los Angeles Police Department arrested Chávez and he was charged with illegal possession of an assault weapon and manufacture or import of a short-barreled rifle. He was later convicted of the charges.

Chávez's manager, Sean Gibbons, told The Times they are currently "working on a few issues" following the boxer's arrest but had no further comment.

Michael A. Goldstein, a lawyer who has worked with Chávez in previous cases, said his client "was detained outside of his residence by 25 or more ICE and other law enforcement agents."

"They blocked off his street and took him into custody, leaving his family without any knowledge of his whereabouts," Goldstein said. "The current allegations are outrageous and appear to be designed as a headline to terrorize the community. Mr. Chávez is

[See Boxer, A14]

Trump's big plans for America's big birthday

As Declaration's 250th year nears, his bid to control teaching of history sparks debate.

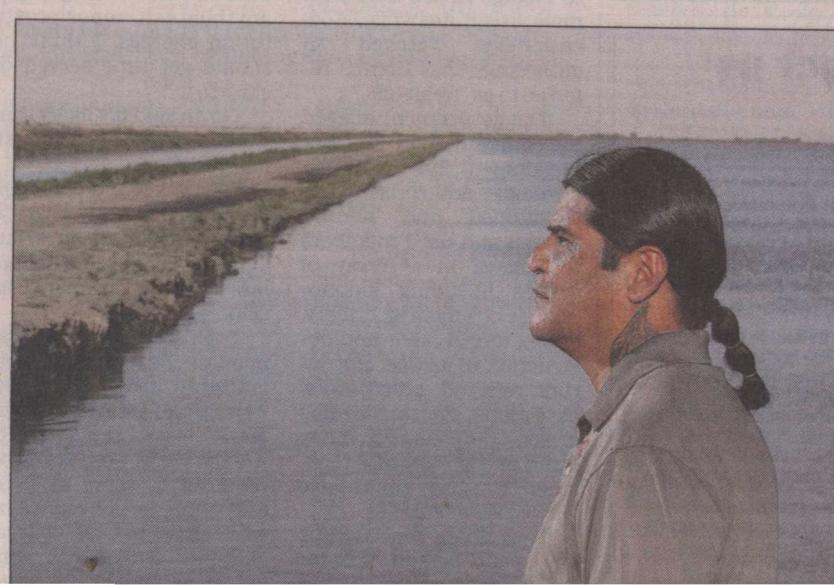
By MICHAEL WILNER

WASHINGTON — As Americans celebrate the Fourth of July, the Trump administration is planning ahead for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence next year.

heated culture wars over the country's identity.

White House officials are actively involved in state and local planning for the semiquincentennial after the president, in one of his first acts in office, established "Task Force 250" to organize "a grand celebration worthy of the momentous occasion."

The administration has launched a website offering its telling of the nation's founding, and President



SCHOOLS PROVIDE BOOST TO U.S. JOB GROWTH

June statistics show payrolls up 147,000, a surprise amid a broad hiring slowdown.

By MARK NIQUETTE

Job growth exceeded expectations in June as an unusual surge in public education hiring masked a slowdown in employment across the rest of the economy.

Payrolls increased 147,000 last month, driven by a jump in state and local government employment, according to a Bureau of Labor Statistics report released Thursday. The unemployment rate fell to 4.1% as both participation and the number of out-of-work people declined.

Private payrolls rose just 74,000 in June, the least since October and largely due to

CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA

Voices

GUSTAVO ARELLANO

Where MAGA finally crossed the line

If voters can stand up to red hats here in Huntington Beach, they can anywhere.

These are such crazy times that when I found myself desperate to cover some good news amid deportations and Trump overreach, I visited ... Huntington Beach?

MAGA-by-the-Sea? The Orange County city that once elected MMA legend Tito Ortiz to its governing body, which currently includes guys named Chad and Butch? Where Mayor Pat Burns presides over council meetings with a small white bust of Donald Trump in front of him?

The coastal community that's been a hotbed of neo-Nazi activity for decades? Whose factory setting is whiny gringo rage? Whose former city attorney, Michael Gates, sued California to keep out of his hometown everything from sanctuary state policies to affordable housing mandates and is now a deputy U.S. assistant attorney general for civil rights, which is like putting a butcher in charge of a vegan picnic?

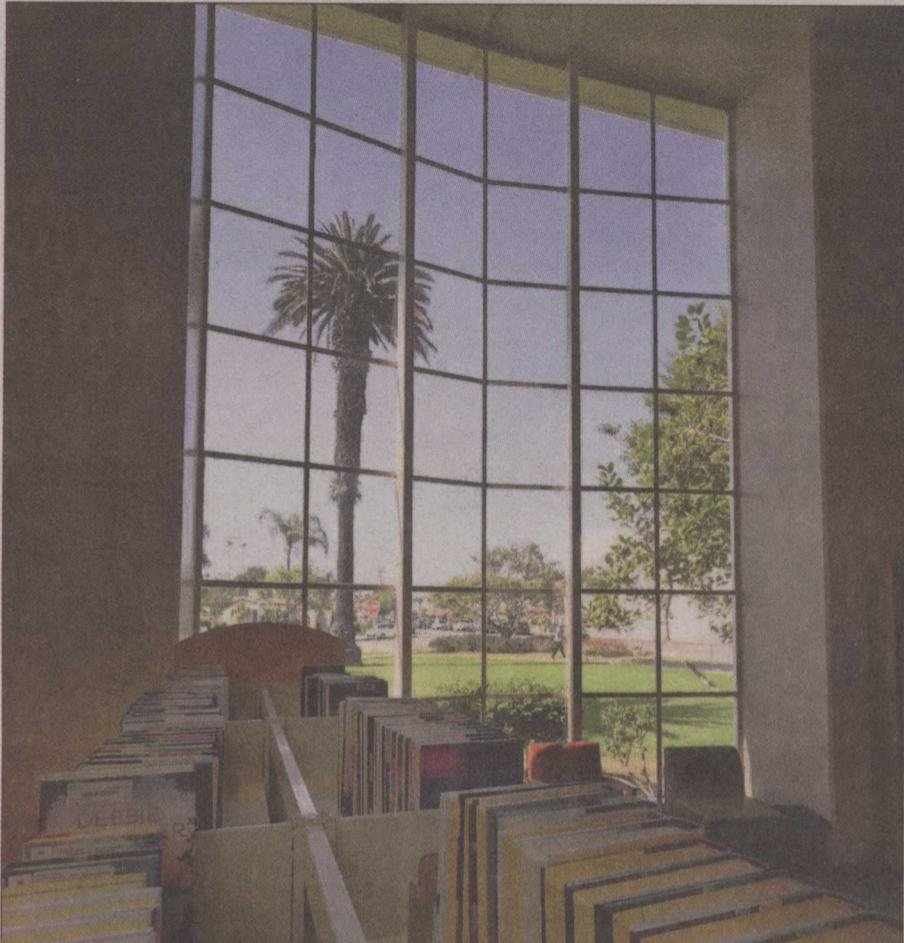
Can that Huntington Beach teach the rest of us a thing—or 30—not just about how to stand up to despotism, but how to beat it back?

Yep!

Last month, Surf City voters overwhelmingly passed two ballot initiatives addressing their libraries. Measure A nixed a parent review board, created by the City Council, that would have taken the power to select children's books away from librarians. Measure B barred the privatization of the city's library system, after the council had considered the idea.

It was a resounding rebuke of H.B.'s conservatives, who had steamrolled over city politics for the past two and a half years and turned what was a 4-3 Democratic council majority three years ago into a 7-0 MAGA supermajority.

Among the pet projects [See Arellano, B4]



Photographs by JOHN MCCOY For The Times

BALLOT measures opposed privatization and review-board plans for the library.



A VICTORY party for the ballot measures nixing the City Council's library plans.

ICE agents allegedly are caught urinating outdoors at a school

BY CLARA HARTER

Surveillance camera video allegedly captured Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents urinating on the grounds of a Pico Rivera high school in broad daylight.

The agents were seen urinating in the parking lot of Ruben Salazar High School, which is immediately adjacent to a preschool play-

ground and an elementary school where summer classes were in session, according to the El Rancho Unified School District.

On Wednesday, the district called for a federal investigation into the "deeply disturbing" conduct of agents, who they say trespassed on school grounds and risked exposing themselves to minors on June 17.

"These actions raise alarming and pressing ques-

tions regarding ICE's behavior and judgment, as well as concerns about the rights and well-being of those involved, including the ERUSD community," wrote the district in a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and ICE acting Director Todd Lyons.

Homeland Security and ICE did not immediately respond to The Times' request [See School, B5]

Parents convicted of child abuse that left baby blind, quadriplegic

BY GRACE TOOHEY

2 housing bills overhaul state's environmental protection law

Advocacy groups criticize Newsom over his decision to sign legislation into law.

BY HAYLEY SMITH

The Golden State's tug-of-war between environmental advocacy and a worsening housing crisis came to a head Monday evening when Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law two bills that will overhaul the landmark California Environmental Quality Act in an effort to ease new construction in the state.

The two pieces of legislation, Assembly Bill 130 and Senate Bill 131, were linchpins in the approval of a proposed \$320-billion annual state budget deal; the governor's signature was conditional on their passage. Together they will exempt a broad array of housing development and infrastructure projects from CEQA—a law dating to 1970 that requires government agencies to identify and mitigate the environmental impacts of their actions.

Newsom said the bills will break down long-standing barriers to development, speeding up production, cutting costs and allowing the state to address its housing scarcity.

"Today's bill is a game changer, which will be felt for generations to come," the governor said in a statement. Development experts agreed, saying it is among the most significant reforms to CEQA in its 55-year history.

But its passage sparked

fierce backlash from environmental groups who say it marks a sweeping reversal of essential protections for the state's most vulnerable landscapes, wildlife and communities.

"This bill is the worst anti-environmental bill in California in recent memory," a coalition of more than 100 organizations wrote in a letter to the governor ahead of Monday's decision. "It represents an unprecedented rollback to California's fundamental environmental and community protections at a time in which the people of California grapple with unprecedented federal attacks to their lives and livelihoods."

CEQA was designed to provide greater transparency and public engagement in land-use decisions across California. Third-party experts have credited the bills with mandating that public agencies consider and address the environmental consequences of their projects, and with protecting ecosystems, preserving scenic vistas and waterways, and safeguarding community health throughout the state.

But CEQA has also faced considerable criticism over the years, in part because its cumbersome environmental impact reports have delayed and even halted projects like housing and high-speed rail development.

AB 130 and SB 131 will address some of those concerns. Specifically, the Assembly bill will exempt most urban infill housing from CEQA, meaning most housing projects built in already-developed areas will no longer

[See CEQA, B4]

Man member of terror group with a hit list, feds say

The group targeted people it felt were enemies of the cause of white supremacy.

BY NATHAN SOLIS

A 24-year-old California man gathered private information on federal officials for an assassination hit list that he shared with other members of a terrorist group known as the "Terrorgram Collective," according to an indictment unsealed in federal court Wednesday.

officials.

It was not immediately clear if he had an attorney.

In September, officials indicted Dallas Humber, 34, of Elk Grove, and Matthew Allison, 37, of Boise, Idaho, for their roles in allegedly circulating several Terrorgram videos and publications that promoted carrying out specific crimes, including a list of assassination targets, according to court documents.

Humber and Allison were accused of leading the group and working together with others to distribute a digital publication known as "The Hard Reset," which pro-

ICE detains, seeks to deport Mexican boxer

[Boxer, from A1]
not a threat to the community."

The son of Mexican boxing legend Julio César Chávez, widely regarded as the greatest boxer in his country's history, Chávez Jr. faced off on Saturday against influencer-turned-fighter Jake Paul and lost.

Two weeks before the Anaheim bout against Paul, Chávez held a public workout in Maywood, where he spoke to The Times. He revealed that one of his trainers had skipped the training session out of fear of immigration enforcement.

"I was even scared, to tell you the truth. It's very ugly," Chávez said. "I don't understand the situation — why so much violence? There are a lot of good people, and you're giving the community an example of violence. I'm from Sinaloa, where things are really ugly, and to come here, to such a beautiful country with everything... and see Trump attacking immigrants, Latinos, for no reason. Not being with God makes you think you know everything. Trump made a bad decision."

He added: "After everything that's happened, I wouldn't want to be deported."

When U.S. officials announced the arrest Thursday, they referred to Chávez as an "affiliate of the Sinaloa cartel." The Trump administration has designated the Mexican drug trafficking group as a "Foreign Terrorist Organization."

"Under President Trump, no one is above the law — including world-famous athletes," Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement.

According to the Homeland Security news release, Chávez entered the country legally in August 2023, with a B2 tourist visa that was valid until February 2024. He had filed an application for lawful permanent resident status last year in April, officials said, based on his marriage to Frida Muñoz, a U.S. citizen, who U.S. officials said "is connected to the Sinaloa cartel through a prior relationship with the now-deceased son of the infamous cartel leader Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman."

El Chapo, a known fan of Chávez Sr. during his fighting days, is now serving a life



JAKE Paul, right, and Julio César Chávez Jr. exchange punches during their cruiserweight bout on Saturday at Honda Center in Anaheim. TAYFUN COSKUN Anadolu

sentence in U.S. federal prison after a 2019 conviction for his leadership role in the Sinaloa cartel.

Muñoz was previously in a relationship with Edgar Guzmán Loera, El Chapo's eldest son, who was killed in Sinaloa in 2008.

The couple had a daughter, Frida Sofía Guzmán Muñoz. Following Edgar's death, Muñoz distanced herself from the family and moved to the United States, eventually beginning a relationship with Chávez. Their daughter, Frida Sofía, has recently launched a music career and frequently attends her stepfather's fights, including the most recent fight in Anaheim.

Chávez has faced criticism over alleged associations with figures linked to drug trafficking. In social media videos, he claimed friendship with Ovidio Guzmán, another son of El Chapo who court records show has agreed to plead guilty to federal drug trafficking charges in Chicago.

On Dec. 17, the Homeland Security news release said, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services made a referral to ICE that Chávez was "an egregious public safety threat."

However, an entry in a DHS law enforcement system under the Biden administration indicated Chávez was not an immigration enforcement priority," the release stated.

According to the release, Chávez was allowed to reenter the country on Jan. 4 at the San Ysidro port of entry.

Following multiple fraudulent statements on his application to become a Lawful Permanent Resident, he was determined to be in the country illegally and removable on June 27, the Homeland Security release stated.

Chávez has been in the boxing spotlight since childhood, often walking to the ring alongside his father. He began his professional career in 2003 and reached the pinnacle in 2011 when he won the WBC middleweight title against Sebastian Zbik. He defended the belt three times before losing it to Sergio Martínez in 2012.

But his career has been plagued by discipline issues, substance abuse, and struggles with making weight. In 2017, he faced fellow Mexican star Saúl "Canelo" Álvarez, suffering a lopsided unanimous decision loss that marked a turning point in his career's decline.

Nicknamed "El Hijo de la Leyenda" ("Son of the Legend") or simply "JR," Chávez Jr. has had legal and personal troubles in recent years. He was arrested on suspicion of weapons possession and later entered a residential rehab facility. His battle with addiction has frequently played out in the public eye, including viral social media disputes with his father, one of his most vocal critics, yet also his most steadfast supporter.

According to Homeland Security, Chávez was convicted in 2012 of driving under the influence of alcohol and was sentenced to 13 days in jail and 36 months of probation.

Goldstein, Chávez's lawyer, noted that his client is a public figure who has been living and working in the U.S. without issue in recent weeks. Goldstein pointed to his recent fight, saying, "His workouts were open to the public and afforded law enforcement countless opportunities to contact him if he was indeed a public threat."

"He has been focused on his own personal growth and mental health," Goldstein said. "He is in full compliance with his mental health diversion and all court obligations. For this reason, we fully expect his only pending case to be dismissed as required by statute."

In 2023, according to Homeland Security, a district judge issued an arrest warrant for Chávez "for the offense of organized crime for the purpose of committing crimes of weapons trafficking and manufacturing crimes."

The release said the warrant was for "those who participate in clandestinely bringing weapons, ammunition, cartridges, explosives into the country; and those who manufacture weapons, ammunition, cartridges, and explosives without the corresponding permit."

Mexican authorities, who typically do not reveal the full names of suspects in criminal cases, said Thursday that federal prosecutors had issued an arrest warrant for Julio "C" in March 2023 for organized crime and arms trafficking. A news release from Mexico's equivalent of the attorney general's office said U.S. officials had started the process of turning him over to face justice.

Mexico City bureau chief Patrick J. McDonnell contributed to this report.

Voices
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UC student governments can't boycott countries

[Boycott, from A1]
Drake's notice builds upon the university's years-long opposition to the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, activism that peaked last year among student governments and supporters of pro-Palestinian encampments that swept UC campuses.

The BDS movement has defended itself against accusations of antisemitism for its aim to sever academic partnerships and financial investments tied to Israel. It has also faced legal hurdles since 2016, when then-Gov. Jerry Brown banned giving state grants or contracts worth more than \$100,000 to state universities that targeted Israel in endorsing BDS.

The letter comes as UC is under a systemwide investigation by the Trump admin-



natory and divisive. They do not advance peace; they deepen fear and exclusion," Stein, an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, said Thursday. "We welcome the University of California's clarification, which promotes inclusivity and respectful academic discourse. Since UC student governments are funded by student fees and operate with university recognition, it is both reasonable and necessary that they represent all students and refrain from discriminatory practices."

Although UC leaders have firmly opposed demands from campus activists to divest campus-level and systemwide endowments from ties to Israel or weapons companies connected to the war in Gaza, boycott movements have

ments tied to apartheid South Africa.

Drake's statement against boycotts does not apply to campus groups, such as Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace, which support BDS. That's because those groups are considered by UC campuses as "registered campus organizations" that are given more leeway to take political action on issues relating to their memberships. They differ from "authorized official student governments" that represent wide swaths of the student body in campus and governance matters.

Many campus Students for Justice in Palestine groups have been suspended or banned, including two at UCLA that were expelled this year.

In a statement posted to social media Wednesday,

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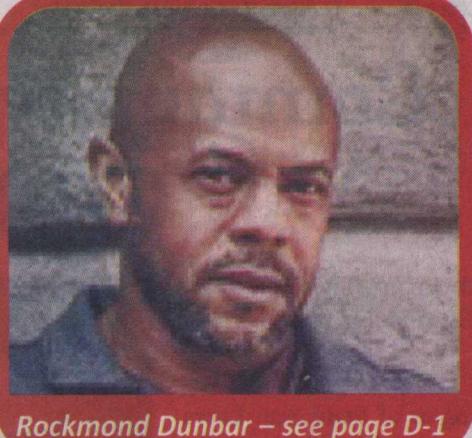
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Sen. Laura Richardson – see page A-2



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"For Over Ninety Years The Voice of Our Community Speaking for Itself"

THURSDAY, June 12, 2025

Bass Declares Curfew After Five Days of Protests, Unrest in L.A.

Mayor also denounces Trump's immigration raids and deployment of National Guard and Marines, which increase tensions and lead to more protests.



AP PHOTO/DAMIAN DOVARGANES

California National Guard protect federal buildings in downtown Los Angeles on Tuesday, June 25, 2025.

CITY NEWS SERVICE

A one-square-mile section of downtown Los Angeles was under curfew Wednesday after five days of protests and unrest sparked by federal immigration enforcement in Los Angeles, with police announcing "mass arrests."

Mayor Karen Bass announced the 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew Tuesday in an attempt to stop looting and vandalism that has beset the area. The curfew applies to an area between the Golden State (5) Freeway and Harbor (110) Freeway, and from the Santa Monica (10) Freeway to where the Arroyo

Seco (110) Parkway and Golden State Freeway merge, Bass said Tuesday evening.

That area includes Skid Row, Chinatown, and the Arts and Fashion districts.

"If you do not live or work in downtown L.A., avoid the area," Bass said. "Law enforcement will arrest individuals who break the curfew, and you will be prosecuted."

There will be "limited exceptions" to the curfew – including for residents of the area, "people traveling to and from work and credentialed media representatives," the mayor said.

Bass said she expects the

curfew to be in effect for "several days," and that she will consult with law enforcement officials about extending the curfew for additional days.

Police began enforcing the curfew immediately.

"Multiple groups continue to congregate on 1st St between Spring and Alameda. Those groups are being addressed and mass arrests are being initiated," the Los Angeles Police Department's Central Division said at 9:09 p.m. Tuesday.

"Curfew is in effect." Police said those with a

**{See MAYOR BASS
DECLARES CURFEW
on A-10}**

Not Just a Celebration: Juneteenth and the Weight of History

BY SHAVON LUCKEY
Contributing Writer

In 2021, Juneteenth became a national federal holiday. Enacted under former President Joe Biden's administration, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act established the legal public holiday as a commemoration of the freedom of enslaved Africans.

This holiday (June 19th) is significant because it is the only holiday that specifically recognizes the existence of slavery and enslaved people. On June 18, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger, a Union General during the Civil War, arrived in Galveston, Texas, to issue General Order No. 3, which declared that "all slaves are free."

The document further reads, "This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of prop-

erty between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor" (National Archives).

This announcement came more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The Proclamation declared freedom, but (being that it was a mere document) did little to implement – especially in confederate areas. Hence,

the reason for the Union coming in to enforce the law. There were over 250,000 enslaved people in Texas who did not know of their freedom.

African American journalist Roland Martin urges the public to regard Juneteenth with acclaim for the marker of freedom and historicism that it is meant to portray. Martin says that this holiday cannot be "bas-

tardized" with revelry and simple frolicking, manifested as drinking and line dancing. There must be an element of acknowledgment of this historic liberation.

As Angelenos prepare for Juneteenth festivities this year, there are multiple events across the city that blend thoughtfulness and celebration:

"Juneteenth 5th Annual Celebration & Resource Fair" on Saturday, June 14, from 12 p.m.-4 p.m. This event will be held at Roy Campanella Park in the city of Compton. Hosted by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department and Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, this free event will feature on-site county services, record expungement, aquatic activities and lessons, technology and coding workshops, food giveaways, tenant protections, and stress

**{See JUNETEENTH
CELEBRATION on A-10}**

**JUNE
JUNETEENTH
FREEDOM DAY**

SHUTTERSTOCK

Western States Carpenters Open Facility in Gardena

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

tunities for people in South L.A., Carson, Compton and adjacent communities in

the great city of Carson, I was here when they were putting the studs up."

includes different stations, including welding, stair building, and interior con-

inet installing, bridge building, and concrete.

"They learn how to do

how to do because that will give them the opportunity to pick which craft that

part of our earn-while-you-learn, four-year apprenticeship for our general carpenter apprentices and our interior system carpenter apprentices," said South

After the four-week pre-apprenticeship, the carpenter can choose their craft and enter the apprentice program where they take classes and work. They have the

learn various projects, including woodworking, metal stud framing, and interior systems.

The is also a welding workshop, equipped with 22 welding booths and virtual welding stations.

"There's a ton of opportunity in this city and the opportunity should be career-oriented," said United Brotherhood of Carpenters western district vice president Pete Rodriguez. "If you want to work with your hands, you come join the apprenticeship ... and you're getting great wages, great benefits and a pension when you retire."

Western States Carpenters also offers a Career

as a carpenter for almost two years.

"I wanted to learn something that I could use at home. I want to be able to have a farm, I want to build chicken coops and build my house one day," Lovelett said. "It inspired me to become a carpenter so I can learn all of those things."

Local 213 journeyman carpenter Crystal Ramirez has worked on the columns at SoFi Stadium and the Sixth Street Bridge during her nine-year career.

"You learn a lot of skills, not just carpentry skills but you learn a lot of team skills," Ramirez said. "It's really hard work but the pay is great, the benefits are great, you get to travel. I've been on some really amazing projects."

me personally, my skin in the game is 36 years ... I worked my whole career in Los Angeles County and I love metal stud framing."

Western States Carpenters has 100,000 members and have locations in 12 different states including Montana, Wyoming, and Utah. For more information, visit wscarpenters.org.



The Compton High School marching band performed during the grand opening.



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
The training center floor is where aspiring carpenters work on various crafts.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

{Continued from A-1}

relief techniques.

"June Jubilee: A Celebration of Black Excellence" on Saturday, June 14, from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Los Angeles Central Library located at 630 W. 5th Street in downtown L.A. Activities include an African water libation ceremony featuring traditional dancers, drummers, and an original poem read by former L.A. Poet Laureate

Lynne Thompson, a screening of the Netflix release, "Black Barbie: A Documentary," a crown-making activity based on the book, "Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat," a beats workshop by DJ Scetch, and a scavenger hunt focused on the historic Central Branch building. Also planned are hip hop bingo, PBS docu-

mentaries focused on Black life, children's story times, demonstrations of line dancing and double dutch, and a homebuying workshop. Also, "Say It Loud: Black Poets of L.A." takes place at 3 p.m. Hosted by collective DUB6, Tommy Domino, and Pw, this event will feature four intergenerational Black poets and their stories, rhythms, and

resistance as Angelenos.

"Juneteenth Festival:

Black on the Block" on

Sunday, June 15, from 1

p.m.-8 p.m., at 500 S.

Bixel St., in Los Angeles.

This event will feature

performances from artists

like Mario along with

150+ Black-owned busi-

ness vendors and 40 food

vendors.

"Jonathan Leonard's

Juneteenth Emancipation

Day" on Thursday, June

19, from 1 p.m.-6 p.m., in

Leimert Park on Crenshaw

Blvd. and Vernon Ave. in

L.A. The outdoor gather-

ing will include barbecue,

watermelon, red soda water

along with music and other

activities.

"Repossessions and

Reparations" at the Cali-

fornia African American

Museum (CAAM) on

Thursday, June 19, from

5:30 p.m.-8 p.m. This event will feature a curator-led tour with exhibition artists and a panel discussion with Reparations4Slavery and The Reparations Project.

"Freedom Day: A

Juneteenth Storytelling

Celebration" at the Kore-

an Bell of Friendship in

San Pedro on Thursday,

June 19, from 11 a.m.-1

p.m. and will feature a

community bell ringing.

MAYOR BASS DECLARES CURFEW

{Continued from A-1}

valid ID were cited at the scene and released, unless they had outstanding warrants.

Bass condemned the

looting, noting in a social media post that people who are vandalizing and burglarizing stores are unaffiliated with people legit-

mately protesting on behalf of immigrants.

"Let me be clear: Any-

one who vandalized down-

town or looted stores does

not care about our im-

migrant communities," Bass

wrote. "You will be held

accountable."

In a round of broadcast media interviews Tuesday morning, Bass said police will take advantage of video footage to track down people who take part in looting and ensure they are "prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

Bass on Monday evening and Tuesday morning again called for an end to the immigration raids to bring an end to the nightly protests.

But federal officials have remained adamant. President Donald Trump over the weekend federalized 2,000 California National Guard troops and ordered them to be deployed to Los Angeles, despite protests by Bass, Gov. Gavin Newsom and other local officials who said such a move would further exacerbate tensions and lead to more intense protests.

But Trump doubled down on the move Monday, ordering an additional 2,000 Guard troops into the city, while also directing 700 U.S. Marines to move into Los Angeles and support the Guard's mission of protecting federal facilities and personnel. Pentagon officials said Tuesday the deployment is expected to cost about \$134 million.

The state of California sued Trump on Monday to overturn the federalization of National Guard troops, and it filed an emergency motion in federal court in Northern California Tuesday seeking a restraining order to block the deployment of the National Guard and the Marines. It was unclear when a hearing on the matter might be held.

Bass blamed the ICE raids and the military response for the unrest in the city.

"Last Thursday, there was nothing happening in

this town that called for the raids that took place Friday," Bass told reporters at a downtown news conference Monday evening. "Nothing was happening. Nothing warranted the raids."

She said the immigration raids being carried out should be curtailed.

"Stop the raids," she said. "This is creating fear and chaos in our city and it is unnecessary."

The mayor said local law enforcement – most notably the LAPD – was fully equipped to deal with the protests, and the deployment of Guard troops and Marines was completely unnecessary.

Bass noted that despite claims by Trump, National Guard troops played no role in quelling violence in the streets over the past four nights, since their mission is strictly to protect federal assets, such as the federal buildings in downtown Los Angeles and in Westwood.



Join Us For Our 76th Annual Celebration!

Thursday, June 19, 2025

1 PM - 6 PM

Leimert Park

Crenshaw Blvd. and Vernon Ave.

Barbeque - Watermelon - Red Soda Water



Scan here to learn more, donate, or purchase a commemorative t-shirt

WILL.I.AM

{Continued from A-9}

due to Covid. The audience including students and their families warmly welcomed the advice shared and the ideas generated by the interactive evening together.

Will.i.am, who attended Pali High, and was then known as William Adams, spoke about the impact that the education he received at Los Angeles' first charter high school had on him. He tapped into his Pali High

resilience, which helped propel him to success in music with Black Eyed Peas, pursue his second career in technology, and engage in philanthropy through his i.am Angel Foundation.

The event also featured remarks by Executive Director and Principal of Palisades Charter High School, Dr. Pam Magee, and AP Spanish & Culture teacher Myrna Cervantes.

(Pali alum class of '93). Students leading onstage Q&A with will.i.am were Miranda Casas, Latino Student Union President, and Joshua Tavasti, Social Justice Representative for The Black Student Union.

Unable to return to Pali High's main campus's football field, Stadium by The Sea, the class of 2025 walked the graduation at the Hollywood Bowl on June 4.

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CALIFORNIA

Appeals court hears National Guard case



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A protester waves a flag Saturday as California National Guard troops stand in front of the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building in downtown Los Angeles during the "No Kings Day of Defiance" protests. KEITH BIRMINGHAM — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

State and Trump administration argue over control

By Kaitlyn Schallhorn
KSCHALLHORN@SCNG.COM

A three-judge appeals panel heard arguments from lawyers Tuesday afternoon over the question of whether President Donald Trump can continue to control California's National Guard as his administration carries out his deportation agenda or if the troops should be returned to Gov. Gavin Newsom's control.

U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer granted a restraining order last week, putting Newsom back in control of the guard and calling Trump's actions "illegal."

But lawyers for the Trump admin-

See GUARD on Page A4

INSIDE: Mayor Karen Bass lifted the downtown L.A. curfew Tuesday shortly after the City Council ratified the emergency order. PAGE A5



Rep. Judy Chu, D-Pasadena, center, and Rep. Linda Sánchez, D-Whittier, second from left, leave after visiting the Adelanto ICE Processing Center in Adelanto on Tuesday. PHOTO BY JAMES QUIGG

Members of Congress demand ICE detention center improve conditions

By Beau Yarbrough
BYARBROUGH@SCNG.COM

A group of Southern California members of Congress called on operators of a high desert immigration detention center to improve conditions for the roughly 1,200 detainees being held within its walls after heightened

enforcement efforts in the region.

"GEO clearly has to improve its treatment of these detainees," Rep. Judy Chu, D-Pasadena, said during a news conference near the Adelanto ICE Processing Center, which she and four other members of Congress

See IMMIGRATION on Page A8

IMMIGRATION

Padilla lashes out at Trump in Senate floor speech

By Linh Tat
LTAT@SCNG.COM

On the floor of the U.S. Senate, Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., once again lashed out at President Donald Trump and his administration on Tuesday for what he described as the militarization of Los Angeles and urged members of Congress and the American people to

push back against a president whom Padilla accused of abusing his powers.

In blistering remarks just five days after he was forcibly removed from U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem's news conference while trying to ask a question, Padilla issued a stern warning that democracy itself is



U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., shown Tuesday on the Senate floor, accuses President Donald Trump of abusing his powers.
SCREENSHOT FROM YOUTUBE VIDEO

See PADILLA on Page A8

WASHINGTON

Trump demands surrender from Iran

President says U.S. has intel of supreme leader's location but won't strike yet to back Israel

By Aamer Madhani and Chris Megerian
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Tuesday the U.S. knows where Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is hiding during the Israel-Iran conflict but doesn't want him killed "for now."

Trump urged, in a social media posting, Iran's "UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER" as the five-day conflict continues to escalate.

"We know exactly where the so-called 'Supreme Leader' is hiding," Trump added. "He is an easy target, but is safe there — We are not going to take him out (kill!), at least not for now. But we don't want missiles shot at civilians, or American soldiers. Our patience is wearing thin."

Trump's increasingly muscular comments toward the Iranian government come after he urged Tehran's 9.5 million residents to flee for their lives as

See IRAN on Page A7

L.A. COUNTY

Carson expands its prohibition on fireworks to include safe-and-sane kind

By Tyler Shaun Evans
TEVAINS@SCNG.COM

Setting off fireworks in Carson just got really expensive.

Mayor Lula Davis-Holmes on Tuesday announced the city's updated zero-tolerance policy on using, selling, possessing and distributing fireworks, including the safe-and-sane kind, which don't launch into the air.

The City Council recently adopted an ordinance prohibiting all fireworks, repealing the previous rule

See FIREWORKS on Page A4



The Blue Breeze Band performs at the 2024 TOCApalooza in Torrance. The free event will return Saturday.
COURTESY OF DAVID KARTSONIS & BAKERS MAN PRODUCTIONS

Performing arts group's TOCApalooza to mark 30th year in Torrance

The Cultural Arts Foundation plans free annual event with music, food and more on Saturday. A3



The San Diego Union-Tribune

\$1.85 | TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025 | SANDIEGOUNIONTRIBUNE.COM

HISTORY

Council restores cuts to finalize budget

Some items mayor vetoed are overridden in compromise plan

By David Garrick
UNION-TRIBUNE

San Diego finalized a compromise budget Monday that restores some funding for brush management, flood prevention and recreation programs at city reservoirs that Mayor Todd Gloria tried to cut last week.

A supermajority of the City Council — six of the council's nine votes — partially overrode a series of line-item vetoes Gloria issued last week based on concerns that the council was using shaky revenue assumptions.

The override also restored \$900,000 in discretionary funds that council members dole out to community groups and \$450,000 for efforts to boost racial equity across the city.

The compromise brings to an end San Diego's most tumultuous budget season in at least a decade — just eight days before the new fiscal year begins July 1.

The city closed a roughly \$350 million deficit in its \$2.2 billion budget with more than \$100 million in cuts and many new sources of revenue, such as higher fees for parking, a new trash fee for single-family homes and a higher hotel tax rate.

Council member Raul

See COUNCIL on Page A7

Justices rule on deporting to 'third countries'

Migrants can be sent to nations other than own as cases play out

By Ann E. Marimow
THE WASHINGTON POST

The Supreme Court on Monday cleared the way for the Trump administration to deport immigrants to countries where they are not citizens, temporarily blocking a decision by a lower court judge who said migrants must have a "meaningful opportunity" to contest their removal.

The court's order, which drew a sharp dissent from the three liberal justices, was in response to an emergency request by the



Smoke rises from a location said to be the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps' headquarters in Tehran after being targeted by Israel on Monday. Military missions continue as ceasefire talks proceed, President Donald Trump said. ELYAS / MIDDLE EAST IMAGES / AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Iran warned U.S. of strike; status of ceasefire unclear

Trump proclaims deal reached, though Israeli and Iranian leaders more circumspect

By Farnaz Fassihi, Jonathan Swan, Ronen Bergman, Aaron Boxerman & Adam Rasgon
THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Donald Trump said on social media Monday that Israel and Iran had agreed to a ceasefire after more than a week of missile strikes on each other and a weekend attack on Iranian nuclear facilities by American bombers.

Hours later, Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, suggested a ceasefire was possible but said there was no agreement "as of now." He added that Iran would be willing to lay down arms if Israel stopped "its illegal aggression against the Iranian people" by 4 a.m. in Tehran.

An Israeli military spokesperson declined to comment, and as that deadline approached, Israel was continuing to strike Iran with missiles in one of the most intense barrages of the war.

Trump's assertion came hours after Iran launched missiles at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest U.S. military installation in the Middle East, retaliating for U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear sites — though giving forewarning to limit the damage. About 10,000 U.S. troops are stationed at Al Udeid, which serves as the regional headquarters for the U.S. Central Command.

Vice President JD Vance said soon after Trump's post that the war appeared to be "effectively over" and that there was now an opportunity to "restart a real peace process."

Trump's language was characteristically less cautious.

"It has been fully agreed by and between Israel and Iran that there will be a Complete and Total CEASEFIRE," the president wrote on social media. But he said it would not take place until the two countries had "wound down" military missions still in progress, which he said would unfold in phases over a day.

Three diplomats, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive diplomacy, said that top Qatari officials had intervened on behalf of the Trump administration and persuaded Iran

to agree to an American ceasefire proposal after being told Israel had also signed on.

Israeli officials had already suggested that the fighting might wind down soon. On Sunday night, the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said Israel was "very, very close" to achieving its aims in the war against Iran, although he did not provide a timetable for an end to the fighting.

The Iranian strike on Al Udeid had initially stoked fears that the conflict with Iran might intensify, drawing the United States in deeper and expanding across the region. Qatar condemned the attack on its territory and

See IRAN on Page A6

UCSD Health lays off 230 as uncertainty grips industry

Sharp and Scripps bracing as legislators debate funding cuts

By Paul Sisson
UNION-TRIBUNE

Citing rising inflation and the uncertainty of federal funding, UC San Diego Health eliminated approximately 230 positions Monday, notifying its 14,000 employees of the layoffs in the late afternoon. And there were signs there could be more job losses at San Diego County's other big health care systems.

The action came amid a nationwide wave of retrenchment that has seen some



UC San Diego Health, which runs Jacobs Medical Center, cited inflation and funding questions in layoffs. NELVIN C. CEPEDA / U-T

LOCAL

SDG&E predicts 'above-normal' risk of wildfires

The region may be facing a dangerous peak wildfire season because of lower-than-normal rainfall, dry vegetation and warmer summer temperatures, according to San Diego Gas & Electric's head meteorologist. The increased wildfire risk is expected to last throughout summer and into fall. B1



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DEPARTMENT

DESIGNATED AREAS HIGHER

THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2014

GOP camps hold up megabill

Medicaid, debt fuel dissent before a key House vote despite pressure from Trump.

By MICHAEL WILNER

WASHINGTON — Confident that passage of President Trump's signature legislation was all but assured, West Wing aides summoned holdouts in the House Republican caucus Wednesday to deliver a blunt message: Follow the president's orders and get it done by Friday.

It was a call to action after House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) directed his caucus to return to Washington from home districts around the country, braving flight delays due to storms in the capital to be back in time for a vote before the Fourth of July.

But the vote was in doubt, and signs emerged of cracks in a coalition otherwise firmly under Trump's control.

"The president of the United States didn't give us an assignment," Rep. Derrick Van Orden, a Republican from Wisconsin, told reporters, using an expletive to suggest Trump was treating lawmakers like his minions. "I'm a member of Congress. I represent almost 800,000 Wisconsinites. Is that clear?"

Frustration within the Republican Party was coming from two disparate camps of a broad-tent coalition that have their own sets of grievances: fiscal hawks who believe the bill adds too much to the national debt, and lawmakers representing districts that heavily rely on Medicaid.

One GOP lawmaker who attended the White House meeting Wednesday, Rep. David Valadao of California, represents a Central Valley district with one of the highest percentages of Medicaid enrollment in the nation.

The president's megabill, which he calls the "Big Beautiful Bill," levies historic cuts to the healthcare program that could result in up to 12 [See Megabill, A6]



CARLIN STIEHL Los Angeles Times

Kidnappers or ICE agents?

LAPD is grappling with calls from residents about masked men. Some accuse officers of then aiding immigration raids.

By LIBOR JANY

When a group of armed, masked men was spotted dragging a woman into an SUV in the Fashion District last week, a witness called 911 to report a kidnapping.

But when Los Angeles Police Department officers arrived, instead of making arrests, they formed a line to protect the alleged abductors from an angry crowd of onlookers demanding the woman's release.

The reported kidnappers, it turned out, were agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Police Chief Jim McDonnell defended the officers' actions, saying that their first responsibility was to keep the peace and that they had no authority to interfere with the federal operation.

In political and activist circles, and across social media, critics blasted the LAPD for holding back the crowd instead of investigating why the agents were arresting the woman, who was later found to be a [See LAPD, A7]



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

DEMONSTRATORS in Boyle Heights protest the immigration crackdown.

COMBS GUILTY ON LESS SERIOUS COUNTS

The mogul is cleared of sex trafficking and racketeering, but stays in custody for now.

By RICHARD WINTON,
AUGUST BROWN
AND HANNAH FRY

Music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs was found guilty Wednesday of transportation for prostitution but cleared of the most serious charges — racketeering and sex trafficking — following a weeks-long federal criminal trial in New York.

Before his fate was announced, Combs sat surrounded by his legal team reading a printout of Psalm 11, a Bible passage that emphasizes relying on God for protection, even amid adversity.

As the jury of eight men and four women delivered its verdict, Combs, who had appeared morose a day earlier facing the possibility of a life sentence, was exultant. He pumped his fist in the air and mouthed "thank you" to the jurors. He fell to his knees and placed his head on his chair as if in prayer. "Mr. Combs has been given his life by this jury," defense attorney Marc Agnifilo told Judge Arun Subramanian.

The verdict is at least a partial victory for the celebrity, with legal experts arguing that prosecutors made crucial errors in overcharging him and failing to prove their case.

"Today's verdict is nothing less than a complete and total failure by the prosecution in what will go down as the most expensive prostitution trial in American history," said Neama Rahami, a former federal prosecutor.

The jury's split decision leaves Combs facing up to 10 years in prison for each of the two counts of prostitution. But it's not clear how severe Combs' punishment will be. In a letter seeking to keep him behind bars, prosecutors listed sentencing guidelines ranging from 51 to 63 months, or just over five years, and the judge has significant leeway in deciding his sentence.

In a late afternoon hearing, Subramanian decided that Combs will remain jailed until his sentencing hearing, citing past violent incidents that his attorneys acknowledged during the [See Combs, A6]

Paramount agrees to \$16-million settlement of Trump's CBS lawsuit

The company hopes to clear a path for its sale to Skydance, held up by the FCC.

By MEG JAMES

Swift backlash against the deal

Critics call it a "spineless capitulation" that will erode press freedoms.

BUSINESS, A9

The move prompted an outcry by 1st Amendment ex-

A callout to bird-watchers

Scientists seek volunteers for a project to observe our feathered friends' response to

example of
on Earth
fully val-
Reagan
of Iowa,
the rocks
not in-
study.

Paramount's leaders hope the settlement will help clear a path for Trump-appointed regulators to bless the company's \$8-billion sale to David Ellison's Skydance Media. They wanted to tamp down tensions with the president.

But journalists and others on Wednesday said the payment will embolden attacks by Trump and his allies on news outlets. Some called the settlement a stain on the proud legacy of CBS News, the onetime home of such fearless journalists as Edward R. Murrow, Walter Cronkite and Mike Wallace.

"This is a shameful decision by Paramount," Clayton Weimers, executive director of Reporters Without Borders USA, said in a statement. "Shari Redstone and Paramount's board should have stood by CBS journalists and the integrity of press freedom. Instead, they chose to reward Donald Trump for his petty legal assault."

Trump's legal team quickly celebrated the settlement, saying: "President



PATRICK T. FALLON AFP via Getty Images

JOURNALISTS and others said the settlement will embolden attacks by Trump and his allies on news outlets.

Donald J. Trump delivers another win for the American people as he, once again, holds the Fake News media accountable for their wrongdoing and deceit."

Bob Corn-Revere, chief counsel for the non-profit 1st Amendment advocacy organization Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, took an opposing view, saying wider repercussions would result.

"A cold wind just blew through every newsroom," Corn-Revere said in a statement. "Paramount may have closed this case, but it opened the door to the idea that the government should be the media's editor in chief."

Federal Communications Commissioner Anna M. Gomez, the lone Democrat on the panel, said the settlement was "a desperate move [by Paramount] to appease the Administration and secure regulatory approval of a ma-

jor transaction currently pending before the FCC."

"This moment marks a dangerous precedent for the 1st Amendment, and it should alarm anyone who values a free and independent press," Gomez said.

For months, Paramount executives have been torn over how to handle Trump's \$20-billion lawsuit. The dispute helped prompt the departure of two senior CBS News executives who tried to hold their ground, particularly as "60 Minutes" continued airing stories that took a hard look at Trump's policies and actions.

Journalists were horrified by the board's willingness to settle the case rather than defend 1st Amendment freedoms.

CBS News staffers feared the company would be forced to apologize when they said they did nothing wrong. (The settlement, negotiated through a mediator, did not require an apolo-

gy.)

The legal wrangling began in October when CBS broadcast different portions of an answer given by then-Vice President Kamala Harris to a question about the Biden administration's wanting clout with Israel's prime minister.

CBS' "Face the Nation" program ran a clip of Harris giving a muddled response to the question. A day later, "60 Minutes" aired a different portion of her answer. This one was forceful and succinct.

CBS has acknowledged editing Harris' answer.

Trump and fellow conservatives seized on the edits, claiming CBS had manipulated Harris' answer to make her appear more authoritative to enhance her standing with voters. He called the edits an example of election interference.

CBS has long denied such claims.

Paramount Co-Chief

Executive George Cheeks said during the company's shareholder meeting Wednesday that settlements are designed for companies to avoid "being mired in uncertainty and distraction."

"Companies often settle litigation to avoid the high and somewhat unpredictable costs of legal defense, the risk of an adverse judgment that could result in significant financial or reputational damage, and the disruption to business operations that prolonged legal battles can cause," Cheeks said.

That rationale did little to mollify detractors who alleged that Trump's complaints were thin.

Paramount's settlement "will be remembered as one of the most shameful capitulations by the press to a president in history," said Seth Stern, director of advocacy for the Freedom of the Press Foundation.

Paramount said the

This could be history in plain sight," Warren said in a statement Wednesday. "I'm calling for a full investigation into whether or not any anti-bribery laws were broken."

"When Democrats retake power, I'll be first in line calling for federal charges," Wyden separately wrote in a post on the Bluesky social media site. "In the meantime, state prosecutors should make the corporate execs who sold out our democracy answer in court."

Some journalists said they feared the settlement could have a chilling effect, particularly among news organizations that lack deep pockets or have unrelated business pending before the federal government.

"CBS News may weather the financial hit, but smaller newsrooms facing similar legal threats could be pushed to the brink," Tim Richardson, journalism and disinformation program director at the nonprofit PEN America, said in a statement.

"The danger is clear," Richardson said, calling the settlement a "spineless capitulation."

"Emboldened politicians and powerful actors will feel more free than ever to weaponize lawsuits and bring regulatory pressure to bear to silence and censor independent journalism."

Tinder adds vetting step for California users

By PIPER HEATH

West Hollywood-based Tinder is now requiring facial recognition scans for all users in California as part of its efforts to build trust among users and reduce the prevalence of scams and fraud that plague dating apps.

The feature, called Face Check, prompts users to take a short video selfie that is used to verify their identity.

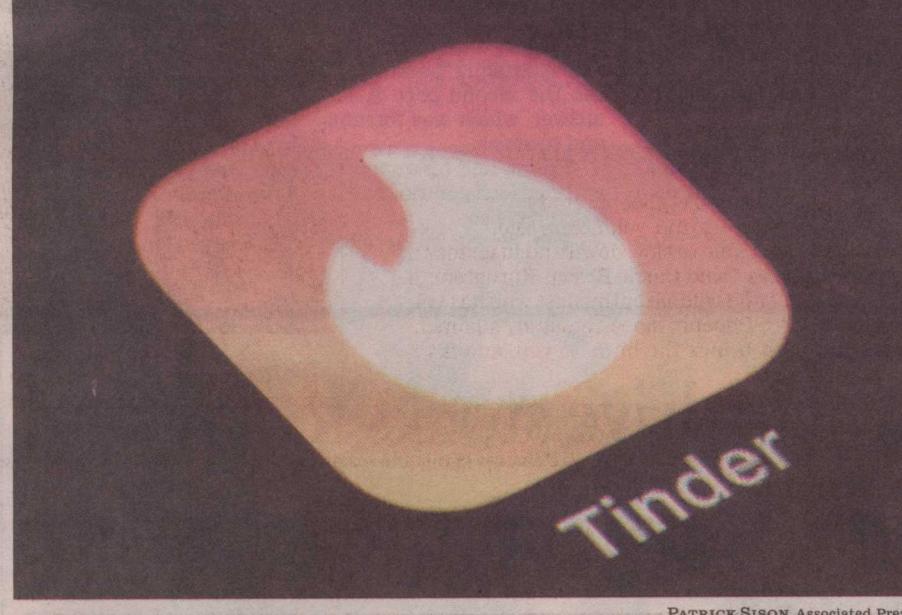
The verification data allows Tinder, owned by Match Group, to check whether a person's face matches their uploaded photos.

The scan is also used to check other photos on the app to detect if a user is impersonating someone or operating duplicate accounts.

The technology is from a company called FaceTec. Users' verification data will be stored for the lifetime of their Tinder account and deleted within 30 days of account closure.

"As part of our continued efforts, we are always testing ways to deliver the best experience for our users to seek authentic connections," a Tinder spokesperson said.

While Tinder already offers photo and ID verification features, they are optional. Face Check will be mandatory in some places in hopes of stopping bad actors and bots that rarely opt into



PATRICK SISON Associated Press

THE DATING APP'S Face Check process is also used in Canada and Colombia.

voluntary verification measures.

The new function is "about confirming that this person is a real, live person and not a bot or a spoofed account," said Yoel Roth, Match Group's vice president of trust and safety.

Tinder has been adding safety features to help users feel more comfortable on the app, including "Are You Sure?" and "Does This Bother You?" prompts that pop up to police potentially unwelcome interactions, as well as newer additions such as Share My Date.

The timing of this pilot program comes as romance scams become more prevalent across the United States. Romance scammers typically create fake profiles on dating platforms or contact victims through social media platforms. They build relationships over time through frequent communication before fabricating emergencies and requesting money from their targets.

With over 60 million Americans using online dating services in 2023, the stakes are significant. The Federal Trade Commission

reported that romance scams cost victims more than \$1.1 billion, highlighting the scale of the problem.

Congressional action is also underway to address these concerns. The House of Representatives unanimously passed the Romance Scam Prevention Act on June 23, which would require dating apps to notify users when they have interacted with someone removed from the platform for fraudulent activity.

Face Check is already being used in Canada and Colombia.

Microsoft to lay off thousands globally in latest cut to tech sector

Workers in gaming, Xbox divisions among those to get pink slips as the industry shifts.

By PIPER HEATH

There was more bad news for the tech sector Wednesday as Microsoft announced reductions to staff, preparing for thousands of layoffs worldwide, including in its gaming division.

The cuts add to what has become a wave of job reductions across California's technology industry. Tech companies in the state announced 17,874 cuts during the first quarter as businesses continue to prioritize efficiency and redirect resources toward artificial-intelligence investments.

Microsoft announced it will lay off thousands of employees globally, including staff in its gaming and Xbox divisions. The cuts affect less than 4% of the company's roughly 228,000-person workforce.

"We continue to implement organizational changes necessary to best position the company and teams for success in a dy-

namic marketplace," a Microsoft spokesperson said.

In a memo to employees Wednesday morning, Microsoft gaming chief Phil Spencer acknowledged the difficult timing of the layoffs.

"To position Gaming for enduring success and allow us to focus on strategic growth areas, we will end or decrease work in certain areas," Spencer wrote in the memo.

The latest layoffs reflect broader industry shifts beyond the pandemic-era over-hiring that initially drove workforce reductions. Companies are now scrutinizing employee productivity more intensively while reallocating capital toward AI development.

Economic uncertainty stemming from regulatory changes and immigration policy shifts is also prompting businesses to reduce expenses.

Major San Francisco Bay Area technology companies including Meta, Google and Workday have reduced staff this year.

These workforce reductions represent a significant blow to California, as the technology sector underpins the state's economy. The industry supports high-paying positions and generates substantial tax revenue through stock options and capital gains when employees sell their shares.

Spencer emphasized that the decision came from shifting strategic priorities, stating that the layoffs are "not a reflection of the talent, creativity, and dedication of the people involved."

Microsoft is providing severance benefits aligned with local laws, including pay, healthcare coverage and job placement resources. Affected employees will receive priority consideration for open positions within Microsoft Gaming, the company said.

Nordstrom plans to close its location at Santa Monica Place

By MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Retail giant Nordstrom is closing its sprawling Santa Monica Place store as it restructures its network to try to better target customers who have moved to online shopping.

The last day of business of the store at 220 Broadway in Santa Monica will be Aug. 26, a spokesperson said in a

statement. The store opened about 15 years ago.

Although the spokesperson didn't give the reason for the decision, safety has become an issue in downtown Santa Monica and Third Street Promenade, once known as a signature destination for shopping and dining.

Nordstrom started as a shoe store in 1901 in Seattle. Currently, it operates more than 370 Nordstrom, Nord-

strom Local and Nordstrom Rack locations.

In 2024, the company opened 23 stores, including seven in California.

"We believe we'll be best able to serve customers in the area by leveraging our surrounding stores and through our digital channels," the spokesperson said.

"Decisions like this are never easy, and we under-

stand the impact they have on our team members."

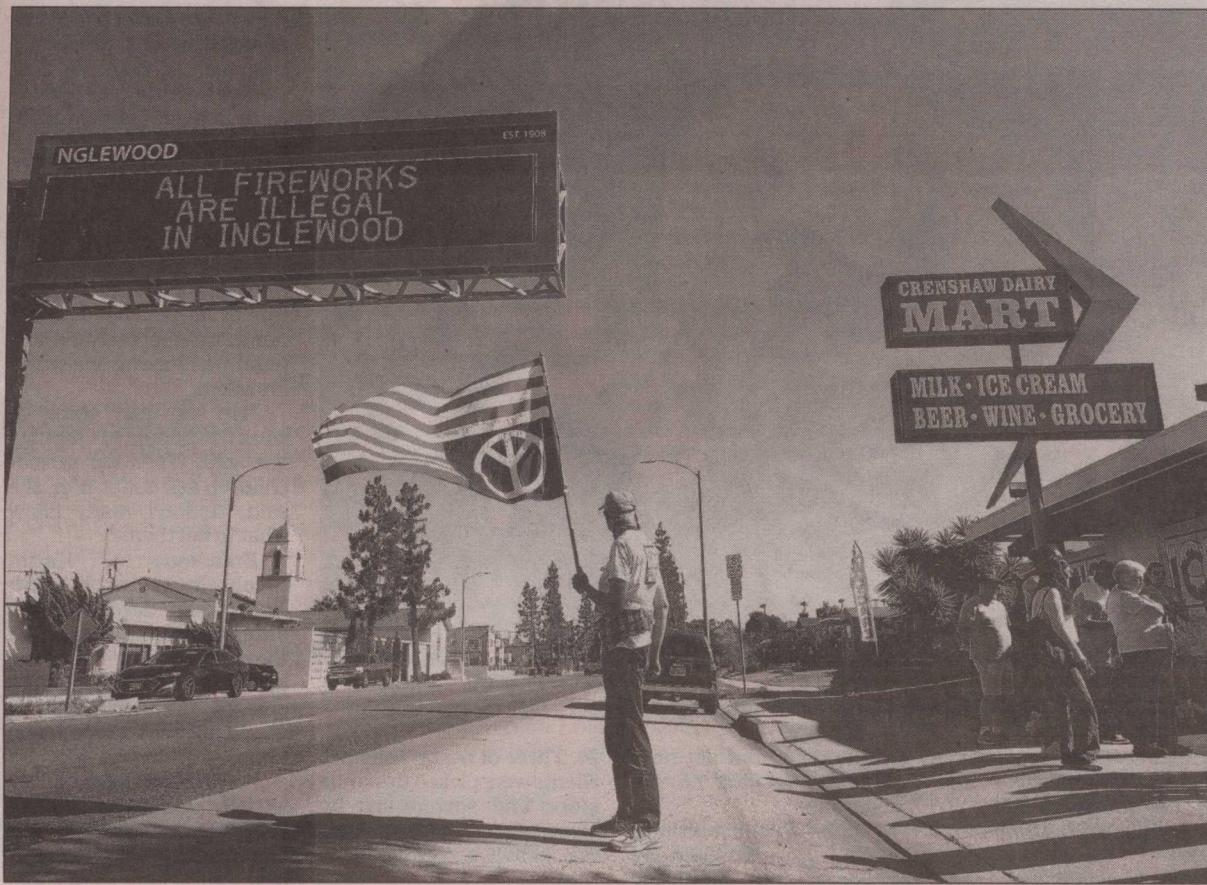
Other retailers have also been restructuring their store networks across the country.

Macy's announced last year that it would shut down 150 stores by 2026, which include the one in San Francisco's Union Square.

Walmart shut the doors to its West Covina store in March.

crush

CITY & STATE



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

PEACEFUL PROTEST

Inglewood resident John Spock, 80, demonstrates Tuesday against immigration enforcement actions.

7 missing after fireworks facility blast

Northern California explosion sets off brush fire, leading to evacuations.

By NATHAN SOLIS

Seven people are missing after a massive explosion at a warehouse in Northern California that sent bright fireworks across the area and ignited a brush fire.

The location was owned by a pyrotechnics license holder, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Emergency crews are searching the property for the missing individuals, and investigators are also surveying the area with drones.

Initially, officials said the explosion Tuesday was set off by fireworks stored in the warehouse, but they later clarified that the location was a pyrotechnics facility in the community of Esparto.

Residents in Esparto and Madison were under an evacuation order as of Wednesday afternoon.

"There is a reduced risk today, but a risk that still remains," Cal Fire said in a news release Wednesday.

Officials are working to determine that everything

Associated Press
SMOKE and flames rise from a fireworks facility Tuesday in Esparto, Calif.

done at the warehouse was in line with license requirements for a pyrotechnics facility.

"This type of incident is very rare, as facilities like this are required to not only follow our stringent California pyrotechnics requirements, but also federal explosive storage requirements," Cal Fire said.

The warehouse fire preceded the explosion in a pre-Fourth of July show. The explosion sent debris across

the area that ignited multiple spot fires, according to officials.

A blaze ignited by the explosion, dubbed the Oakdale fire, started about 6 p.m. Tuesday in Esparto, about 35 miles northwest of Sacramento, authorities said.

The Yolo County Sheriff's Office warned residents to avoid the area for several days while it investigates the cause of the blast.

"The fire will take time to

cool, and once it does, explosive experts must safely enter the site to assess and secure the area," the Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post.

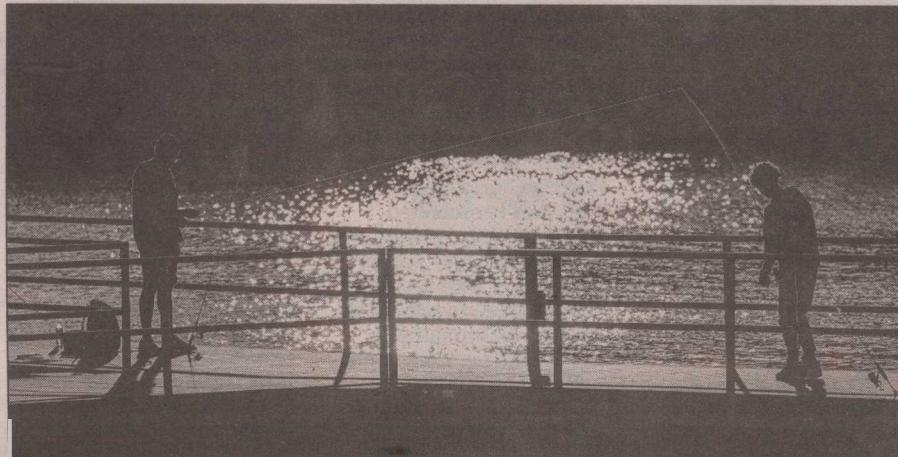
Video of the warehouse where the explosion occurred showed plumes of thick black smoke emanating from the structure, and a helicopter video from KCRA-TV showed a burning warehouse with sparks shooting out of the structure, then a large explosion.

State pitches two days of free fishing

Wildlife officials offer no-license trial for residents who want to dip a toe in the water.

By CLARA HARTER

As beaches fill up and grills fire up across California for the Fourth of July weekend, the state is offering another way to enjoy the great outdoors — free fishing, no license required. This Saturday, anyone can cast a



Trump waging an 'assault' on L.A., Bass says

Mayor's comments come in response to federal lawsuit over city's sanctuary law.

By DAVID ZAHNISER, BRITNEY MEJIA AND NOAH GOLDBERG

Mayor Karen Bass fired back at the Department of Justice on Tuesday, calling its lawsuit against her city part of an "all-out assault on Los Angeles" by President Trump.

Bass said she and other city leaders would not be intimidated by the lawsuit, which seeks to invalidate sanctuary policies that prohibit city resources from being used in federal immigration enforcement in most cases.

The mayor, appearing before reporters at City Hall, assailed federal agents for "randomly grabbing people off the street, 'chasing Angelenos through parking lots' and arresting immigrants who showed up at court for annual check-ins.

She also took a swipe at Trump's deputy chief of staff, Stephen Miller, a Santa Monica native widely viewed as the architect of the sweeping immigration crackdown.

"We know that U.S. citizens have been detained, so it's basically indiscriminate," Bass said. "It's a wide net they have cast in order to meet Stephen Miller's quota of 3,000 people a day being detained around the nation."

L.A.'s mayor has been at odds with the Trump administration since early June, when federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents began a series of raids across Southern California, spurring protests in downtown Los Angeles, Paramount and other communities. Her latest remarks came one day after Trump's Department of Justice sued the city over its sanctuary law, alleging it has hindered the federal government's ability to combat "a crisis of illegal immigration."

In the lawsuit, federal prosecutors accused the City Council of seeking to "thwart the will of the American people," arguing that Trump won his election on a platform of deporting "millions of illegal immigrants." They also alleged that L.A.'s refusal to cooperate with federal immigration authorities had triggered "lawlessness, rioting, looting, and vandalism" during the anti-ICE demonstrations.

White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson pushed back against Bass' assertions, saying in an email that Bass should "thank President Trump for helping get dangerous crimi-

nals off L.A.'s streets."

"The only 'assault' being committed is by Bass's radical left-wing supporters who are assaulting ICE officers for simply doing their job and enforcing federal immigration law," Jackson said. "Thanks to inflammatory rhetoric like Bass's, ICE officers are facing a 500% increase in assaults."

Elected officials in Los Angeles, Pasadena, Huntington Park and other communities have decried the raids, saying they are tearing families apart, disrupting public life and choking off economic activity. In some communities, Fourth of July fireworks shows have been canceled for fear of ICE raids disrupting the events.

Even some who support Trump have begun to voice concerns. Last week, six Republicans in the state Legislature sent Trump a letter urging him to focus on targeting violent criminals during his immigration crackdown, saying the raids are instilling widespread fear and driving workers out of crucial industries.

From June 1 to June 10, 722 people were arrested by immigration agents in the Los Angeles region, according to ICE data obtained by the Deportation Data Project at UC Berkeley Law. A Times analysis of the figures found that 69% of those arrested during that period had no criminal conviction, and 58% had never been charged with a crime.

In L.A., the sanctuary ordinance bars city employees from seeking out information about an individual's citizenship or immigration status unless needed to provide a city service. They also must treat data or information that can be used to trace a person's citizenship or immigration status as confidential.

Trump has been trying to strike down the state's sanctuary policies almost since they were enacted — largely without success.

In 2019, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals rejected a federal challenge to Senate Bill 54, which barred local police departments from helping federal agencies take custody of immigrants being released from jails. The Supreme Court declined to take up the case the following year.

In a separate case, the 9th Circuit ruled that the Trump administration may not force the city of L.A. to help deport immigrants as a condition of receiving a federal police grant.

City Councilmember Tim McOsker, who worked for several years in the city attorney's office, said Tuesday that he views the Trump lawsuit as a publicity stunt.

"There are over 100 years of case law that tell us this is a baseless lawsuit," he said.

Times staff writer Rachel Uranga contributed to this report.

with free fishing lessons, conservation tips and friendly competitions.

All regular fishing requirements apply during free fishing days, such as bag

limits and restrictions on the type of fish that can be caught.

Despite these efforts, many fish populations remain threatened in California. Southern California

**LIMIT:
1 HR. PER
PATRON**

get huge funding boost in package

Senate Republicans include \$150 billion in immigration and border spending.

By ANDREA CASTILLO

WASHINGTON — Building the border wall. Increasing detention capacity. Hiring thousands of immigration agents.

The budget bill narrowly approved by the Senate on Tuesday includes massive funding infusions — roughly \$150 billion — toward immigration and border enforcement. If passed, the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” will cement President Trump’s hard-line legacy on immigration.

The budget bill would make Immigration and Customs Enforcement the highest-funded law enforcement agency in the federal government, exceeding its current yearly \$3.4-billion detention budget many times over. It also would impose fees on immigration services that were once free or less expensive and make it easier for local law enforcement to work with federal authorities on immigration.

The 940-page Senate bill will now head back to the House, which passed its version in May, also by one vote, 215 to 214. The two chambers must now reconcile the two versions of the bill.

Though the legislation is still evolving, the immigration provisions in the House and Senate versions are similar and not subject to the intense debates on other issues, such as Medicaid or taxes.

Many of the funds would be available for four years, though some have longer or shorter timelines. The Congressional Budget Office estimates [See Immigration, A6]



ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS AFP/Getty Images

A VISIT TO 'ALLIGATOR ALCATRAZ'

President Trump tours Florida's detention center for immigrants with Gov. Ron DeSantis and Homeland Security chief Kristi Noem. **NATION, A5**

Senate passes megabill with a tiebreaking vote

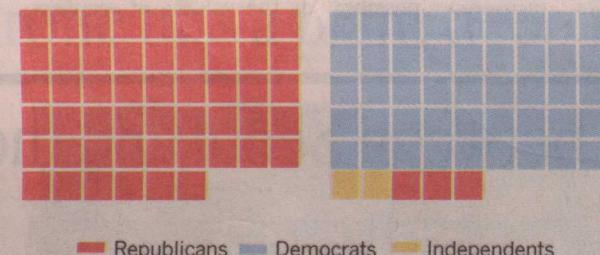


GRAEME SLOAN Bloomberg

SEN. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) said her decision to vote for President Trump's bill was “agonizing.”

51-50 vote

Vice President JD Vance cast the tiebreaking vote in the Senate on Tuesday after Republicans Susan Collins of Maine, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Thom Tillis of North Carolina voted with the Democratic caucus.



— Republicans — Democrats — Independents

By MICHAEL WILNER

WASHINGTON — By a single, tiebreaking vote, Senate Republicans on Tuesday approved President Trump's signature legislation, a major step toward passage of a bill that would expand tax cuts while cutting healthcare access to millions.

Just 50 Republicans supported the legislation, forcing Vice President JD Vance to cast the deciding vote.

GOP Sens. Rand Paul of Kentucky, Thom Tillis of North Carolina and Susan Collins of Maine joined all Democrats in the chamber in opposition to the bill.

The legislation passed with the support of a key skeptic of its most controversial provisions: Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who persuaded Senate leadership to include several provisions uniquely beneficial to her state to secure her support.

The bill extends tax cuts and benefits first passed in 2017 under Trump that were set to expire later this year, [See Vote, A6]

How state law reform will affect home building

Changes in California environmental act will remove a major construction hurdle.

By LIAM DILLON AND TARYN LUNA

This week, Gov. Gavin Newsom touched one of the third rails of California politics. He hopes the result sends a shock through the state's home-building industry.

Newsom strong-armed the state Legislature into passing what experts believe are the most significant changes to the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA, since the law was signed in 1970.

The changes waive CEQA for just about any proposed low- or mid-rise development in urban neighborhoods zoned for multifamily housing. No more thousand-page studies of soils, the shadows the buildings may cast and traffic they may bring. No more risk of CEQA lawsuits from angry neighbors.

Wiping away these rules shows that no matter how challenging the politics, the state will remove the barriers it has built over decades



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA legislators and Gov. Gavin Newsom passed significant changes regarding home building.

A big change for housing development

Newsom tied major reform of landmark environmental act to passage of the state's budget. **NATION, A14**

China is kicking up use of AI in movies

As Hollywood keeps its guard up, tech is being used to revamp classic kung fu films.

By WENDY LEE

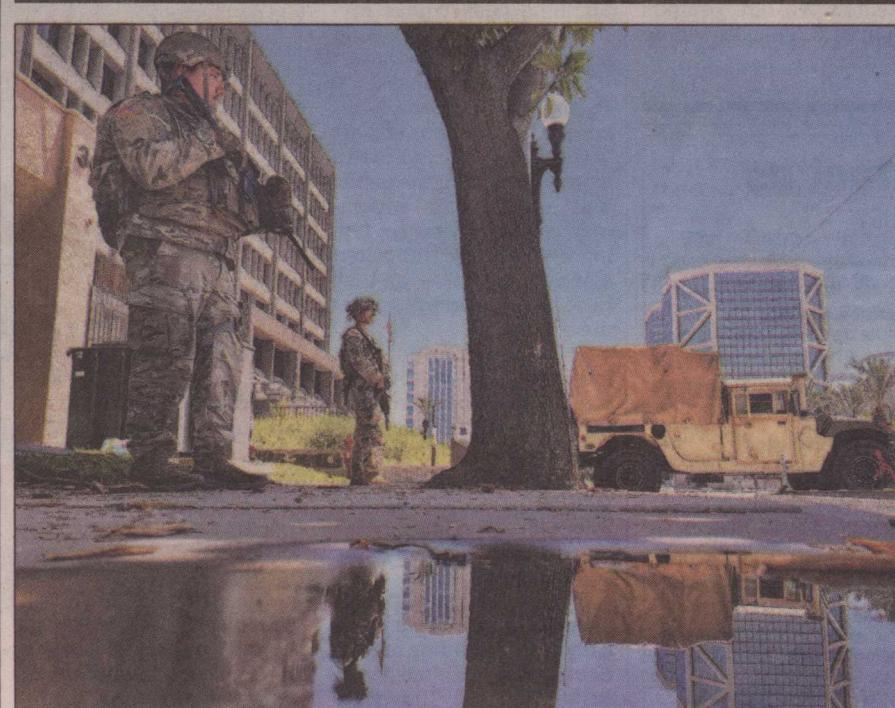
Hollywood's relationship with artificial intelligence is fraught, as studios balance the need to cut costs with growing concerns from actors, directors and crew members. But in China, efforts to use AI in entertainment are taking a more no-holds-barred approach.

The China Film Foundation, a nonprofit fund under the Chinese government, plans to use AI to revitalize

ner with businesses including Shanghai Canxing Culture & Media Co., which will license 100 Hong Kong films to AI companies to reintroduce those movies to younger audiences globally.

The foundation said there are opportunities to use AI to tell those stories through animation, for example. There are plans to release an animated version of director John Woo's 1986 film “A Better Tomorrow” that uses AI to “reinterpret” Woo's “signature visual language,” according to an English transcript of the announcement.

“By empowering cultural storytelling with technology, we can breathe new life into the classics and tell China's



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

Trump freezes school funding

State is hit hard by decision to withhold money for English learners, migrant kids.

By HOWARD BLUME

The Trump administration on Monday moved to withhold a projected \$6.8 billion nationwide in education funds — including at least \$81 million from California

CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA

HISTORY



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

SKID ROW'S unhoused population reported being more likely to stay in a location for three years or more.

Homelessness is higher in Skid Row, down elsewhere

Homeless encampments were markedly reduced in Hollywood and Venice last year, but the number of people sleeping "rough" without a tent, vehicle or makeshift shelter held steady, raising the likelihood that the gains will be harder to sustain in the future, a new Rand report concluded.

The total number of unsheltered homeless people was down 15% overall in the three areas Rand studies, the first decrease since the project began in 2021. But the declines — 49% in Hollywood and 22% in Venice — were partially offset by a 9% increase in Skid Row.

The report authors pointed to a likely positive effect of public policies that have increased permanent and interim housing, particularly Mayor Karen Bass' Inside Safe program, but found that those left behind pose a greater challenge.

"Rough" sleeping represented about 40% of the total unsheltered

Rand study finds declines in Hollywood and Venice. But the population sleeping 'rough' holds steady.

By DOUG SMITH

population in the count, taken in December 2024.

"Tent dwelling is no longer the typical modality of homeless life in Los Angeles," said lead author Louis Abramson.

"We are seeing this picture where there does seem to be real progress in bringing people off the street but the people who are still on the street are the most vulnerable," Abramson said. "The acuity indicators are not trending in the same way as the numbers. People's level of health, well-being and connectivity is not improving and is in some ways deteriorating."

The report is the third released annually by the Los Angeles Longitudinal Enumeration and Demographic Survey (LA LEADS), conducted by Rand's Center on Housing and Homelessness.

The findings are consistent with preliminary results for the 2025 point-

[See Homeless, B2]

Trump returns 150 Guard troops to state control

By CLARA HARTER

The Trump administration has approved a request from the U.S. military to return to California's command some of the National Guard troops who were deployed to Los Angeles.

President Trump assigned some 4,100 National Guard troops and 700 Marines to protect federal personnel and property in the Los Angeles area from immigration-related unrest last month, despite pushback from California leaders who said the deployment was unnecessary and inflaming tensions on the ground. On Tuesday, the U.S. Northern Command announced that 150 National Guard troops were being released from protest duty.

The head of the Guard's U.S. Northern Command, Gen. Gregory Guillot, initially asked Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to return

200 troops to California's command, a U.S. official told The Times on Monday. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because no decision had been announced publicly at that time.

The request came as fire season returns and the National Guard unit assigned to combating wildfires is at just 40% of its regular staffing levels, according to Gov. Gavin Newsom's office. The level of protest-related unrest has decreased since demonstrations began June 6 in response to a series of surprise immigration raids.

One of those who has been most outspoken about demanding the return of the National Guard to California command is Newsom, who has called President Trump's federalization of more than 4,000 troops illegal and continues to battle their deployment in court. The activation of the Na-

[See Guard, B2]



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

NATIONAL GUARD troops help protect a federal building in downtown Los Angeles last month.

Teen is recovering after fall from cliff

The 14-year-old boy's father says he began to hallucinate as they hiked Mt. Whitney.

By CHRISTOPHER BUCHANAN

A California teen who walked off a cliff while experiencing altitude-related hallucinations on the tallest mountain in the lower 48 states has begun a slow recovery but remains in a medically induced coma, his family said.

Early in June, Zane Wach, 14, ascended Mt. Whitney in the Sierra Nevada with his father, Ryan, an experienced hiker, on the Mountaineer's Route — an eight-mile route described as "steep" and "unmanned" by the Sier-

ra Mountain Center. As the Wachs began their descent toward their car on a safer route, Zane began to experience hallucinations of "snowmen" on the trail and was in an "altered mental state," Ryan Wach told SFGate.

"It was completely bizarre," Wach said in an interview with SFGate. "He told me he couldn't tell if he was dreaming or not, and he would shake his head in disbelief, like, 'This is not real.' Like he was in the movie 'Inception' or something."

Mt. Whitney's peaks draw 30,000 hikers each year and an average of two suffer fatal injuries annually, according to the U.S. Forest Service. Climbers who wish to ascend during peak spring and summer months, between May 1 and Nov. 1,

[See Whitney, B5]

Raids tough for lawmakers to fight

State, federal bills to rein in immigration enforcement face opposition

By SANDRA McDONALD

It has been nearly a month since the Trump administration launched its no-holds-barred immigration enforcement campaign in Southern California, deploying federal forces on raids that have sparked massive protests, prompted ongoing litigation in federal court and triggered a flurry of bills from outraged state lawmakers trying to fight back.

And yet — at least so far — nothing seems capable of deterring the White House or forcing a change in tactics.

In Sacramento and Washington, observers said elected officials are coming up with proposals that seem to lack teeth.

Ahilan Arulanantham, co-director of the UCLA Center for Immigration Law and Policy and former senior counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union in Los Angeles, said stopping the Trump administration from sending masked and unidentified immigration agents to snatch people off the street is proving difficult.

"They detain everybody and interrogate them all and then just figure out afterward who's unlawfully present, and that's blatantly il-

legal," he said. "We can write more laws, but there's already perfectly good laws that say this is unlawful, and they're doing it anyway."

A bill announced Monday by state Sen. Sasha Renée Pérez (D-Alhambra) would expand police impersonation laws and require all law enforcement, unless undercover, to wear a name tag or badge number.

"While ICE has publicly condemned impersonations, the agency's use of face coverings and lack of consistent, visible identification creates public confusion and makes it difficult for the public to distinguish between authorized law en-

forcement personnel and dangerous criminals," Renée Pérez's office said in a news release.

Another bill, introduced by state Sens. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) and Jesse Arreguin (D-Berkeley) also seeks to ban law enforcement from wearing face coverings.

U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) announced similar legislation Tuesday at the federal level, but the Republican majorities in both congressional houses mean it stands little chance of becoming law.

The state bills have a better chance of passage in the

[See Lawmakers, B4]

**LIMIT:
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ONLY
GENEALOGY
MENT

ected into
In Sports

ate comments, criticism
our in over 'Love Island'

Fans going too far with negativity this season, viewers and mental health experts say. In Life



CHRIS DAY/
USA TODAY NETWORK

**Barbecuing
for the 4th?
What will
cost more**

People can expect to pay 2.2% more than last year for their cookout, says a Wells Fargo Agri-Food Institute analysis. See the breakdown. In Money

USA TODAY
THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025

HISTORY

"How can you know how the Social Security Administration is doing with regard to answering calls or processing benefit applications unless you have these metrics?"

Rep. Judy Chu, D-California

Help line for Social Security under fire

Critics say not reporting wait times is misleading

Sarah D. Wire
USA TODAY

Members of Congress and advocates say the Social Security Administration is providing the public with misleading information about how long it will take to resolve their problems.

Over the past several weeks, the agency has stopped making public 34 real-time performance metrics about things like how long they will have to wait to reach a live person on the phone, and how long applications for new senior benefits or Social Security benefits take to be approved. The metrics have been used for years to show how time-consuming it can be to reach a live person at certain locations or through the national 800 number, and as an accountability measure for the agency.

Instead the webpage now emphasizes how quickly problems can be resolved online, and says the "average speed of answer," which excludes callback wait time, is 19.2 minutes.

USA TODAY reporters called Social Security's 800 line multiple times over several days and found the wait times to be consistently over an hour. Multiple times they did not reach a live person before the line disconnected with no warning.

Social Security Commissioner Frank Bisignano told members of Congress June 25 that 3 out of 4 people who call that 800 number use a callback feature so they are not waiting on the phone. He said he took the wait time metric off the website because he thought it kept people from calling.

"If you show that you got an hour and a half wait time, well people are going to be discouraged and not call," he said.

When California Rep. Judy Chu asked him to reinstate the metrics so members of Congress and the public can have an accurate barometer of the agency's performance, Bisignano avoided answering the question until Chu's time to ask questions expired.

"How can you know how the Social Security Administration is doing with regard to answering calls or processing

Abandoned, no housing

LGBTQ+ youth more than twice as likely to be homeless in U.S.



ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY CLEMENS/USA TODAY; GETTY IMAGES

Rachel Hale USA TODAY

The No. 7 train was the warmest place for Iden Campbell McCollum to sleep. • He took the subway to his job at Burger King and spent many nights looping its route to Flushing, curled up over heaters that provided a brief respite from New York City's winters. • At the time, he was a recent high school graduate who had aged out of foster care and found himself homeless and battling severe depression.



His struggle was exacerbated by confusion about his gender identity. He didn't know any transgender people or have the language to describe what he was experiencing, but he knew he was different, and that his parents wouldn't accept him.

Birthright ruling scares migrants

Trump plan could affect up to 255K babies a year

Trevor Hughes and Josh Meyer
USA TODAY

DENVER — The Supreme Court's reticence to stop President Donald Trump from revoking automatic birthright citizenship to anyone born in the United States has set off shockwaves among migrant communities.

The court's June 27 ruling does not change the status of anyone subject to birthright citizenship, and it gives lower courts 30 days to further consider the issue. Advocates immediately filed a class-action lawsuit to block Trump's plan, which would end automatic citizenship for babies born in the United States unless their parents are also citizens or legal, permanent residents.

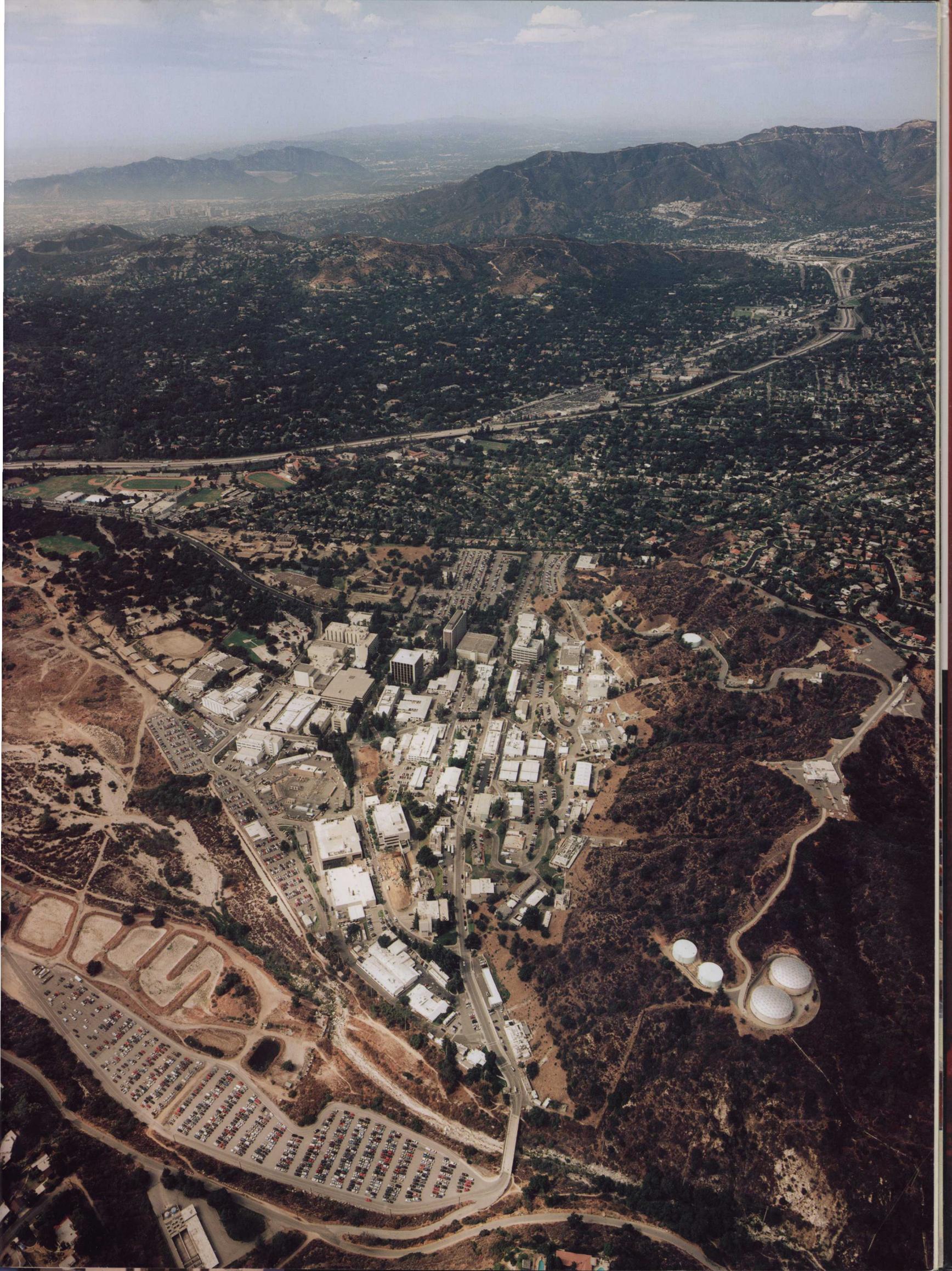
The measure is not retroactive, meaning it would only apply to babies born after it takes effect, if allowed by the courts.



A person stands with a U.S. flag attached to them, after the high court dealt a blow to the power of federal judges. NATHAN HOWARD/REUTERS

Among those suing to stop Trump's plan is "Liza," a Texas-based Russian-born graduate student who gave birth after the president issued his executive order. Liza, who has been granted anonymity by the federal courts in recognition of her immigration status, said she fears going to the Russian embassy to register their child's birth because her husband has applied for asylum in the United States after fleeing their homeland.

Liza's baby is currently protected from losing U.S. citizenship due to a preliminary injunction issued by a lower court, which will now consider the merits of Trump's plan. Liza said she was "sick with worry" that the courts would rule before her baby was born.





Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Since 1958, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) has been designing and operating nearly all U.S. unmanned explorations of the moon and planets in our solar system. Funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and managed by the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), JPL occupies a 177-acre site on the western edge of the Arroyo Seco, not far from where a few Caltech students performed the mid-1930s rocket experiments that eventually led to the lab's founding.

The term "Jet Propulsion Laboratory" first appeared in a 1943 Caltech proposal to develop a missile for the U.S. Army Air Corps in response to Germany's V-2 rocket. In 1949, the lab succeeded in sending a reconstructed V-2 rocket 244 miles above the earth. This first U.S. entry into space launched the new "aerospace" industry, with Los Angeles as its leader. For the next eight Cold War years, JPL focused on

designing bigger and better missiles, until October 1957, when Russia shocked the U.S. with its successful launch of Sputnik, Earth's first manmade satellite.

After that amazing feat, JPL turned its attention from designing rockets to designing the objects that rockets put into orbit. Since the January 1958 launch of Explorer 1, the first U.S. satellite, the lab has placed robotic craft on the moon and Mars, and sent orbiters or flybys to Venus, Neptune, Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus. It's also sent equipment to the International Space Station and repaired the Hubble Space Telescope. In recent years, JPL has often turned its eyes back to earth, studying how clouds affect our weather and water and keeping tabs on ozone levels, changes in arctic sea ice, and rising temperatures. The lab has even used satellites to help locate hidden ancient cities and developed a camera that helps surgeons map the brain.

Opposite: Aerial View of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.



Jet Propulsion Laboratory



HOLLYWOODLAND sign in 1924 (right center). It was erected in 1923 by land developer at cost of \$21,000; recently restored as HOLLYWOOD at \$27,000 per letter.

(opposite) Hollywood Hills today. You can still find "Mexican ranch houses, Samoan huts, Mediterranean villas, Egyptian and Japanese temples, Swiss chalets and Tudor cottages," as described by Nathanael West in *The Day of the Locust*.



Jet Propulsion Laboratory northwest of Pasadena.
Its space-craft probing the solar system.

(opposite) Los Angeles County Museum of Art. At right are the La Brea Tar Pits; they have yielded the bones of many extinct animals trapped in the asphalt 40,000 years ago.



ROBERT CAMERON'S

ABOVE LOS ANGELES

HI

with text by
JACK SMITH